

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from Virginia, the whole number of the House is 435.

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Senate Referral: S. 645 was held at the desk.

Page H1122

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1122.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1130–31 and H1132.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COVID–19 ORIGIN ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE RELATING TO REVISED DEFINITION OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES; PROTECTING SPEECH FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 619, the “COVID–19 Origin Act of 2023”; H.J. Res. 27, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”; and H.R. 140, the “Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 140, the “Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act”, H.J. Res. 27, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”, and S. 619, the “COVID–19 Origin Act of 2023”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 140, the “Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 140 made in order as original text. The rule further makes in order only

those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments are waived. The rule further provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 27, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of S. 619, the “COVID–19 Origin Act of 2023”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. Section 4 of the rule provides that section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546) shall not apply to a concurrent resolution introduced during the first session of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress pursuant to section 5 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544) with respect to Syria. Section 5 provides that if a veto message is laid before the House on House Joint Resolution 30, then after the message is read and the objections of the President are spread at large upon the Journal, further consideration of the veto message and the joint resolution shall be postponed until the legislative day of March 23, 2023; and on that legislative day, the House shall proceed to the constitutional question of reconsideration and dispose of such question without intervening motion. Testimony was heard from Chairman Turner, and Representatives Himes, Rouzer, Larsen of Washington, Armstrong, and Raskin.

VistA: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE MISUNDERSTOOD

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "VistA: The Good, the Bad, and the Misunderstood". Testimony was heard from Daniel McCune, Executive Director of Software Product Management, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1376, the "COVID-19 Origins Act of 2023". H.R. 1376 was ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 8, 2023**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine the Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the economic costs of wildfires, 10 a.m., SD-608/VTC.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine implementation of the Aircraft, Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 316, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, S. 509, to provide resources for United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, S. 430, to provide authority to enter into a cooperative agreement to protect civilians in Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula from weaponized unmanned aerial systems, the nominations of Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Representative to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Michael Alan Ratney, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, and Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, all of the Department of State, L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Richard L.A.

Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, of Virginia, to be Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending calendar business, 10:30 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine geopolitical competition and energy security in Central Asia, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine defending the right of workers to organize unions free from illegal corporate union-busting, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence, focusing on risks and opportunities, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 559, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, and the nominations of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and Adrienne Jennings Noti, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 4 p.m., SD-562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine Native communities' priorities for the 118th Congress, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold hearings to examine platform accountability, focusing on *Gonzalez* and reform, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., 390, Cannon Building.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine worldwide threats, 12 noon, SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Forestry, hearing entitled "A Review of Title VIII: Forestry Stakeholder Perspectives", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Day 1", 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.